

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /069 W
-----032365 241500Z /44

R 241125Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9613
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANTANANARIVO 1527

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PBOR, ET, SO, MA
SUBJECT: MALAGASY MISSION RETURNS FROM ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA

REFS: (A) ANTANANARIVO 1484; (B) ADDIS ABABA 5044; (C) ADDIS
ABABA 5063

1. SUMMARY. MALAGASY MISSION TO HORN RETURNED TO ANTANANARIVO
AUGUST 23, WILL REPORT TO PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA FOR DECISION ON
FURTHER ACTION. MOTIVE FOR THIS UNUSUAL MALAGASY INITIATIVE
NOT YET APPARENT. END SUMMARY.

2. OFFICIAL PRESS BULLETIN DESCRIBED MISSION'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN
MODEST TERMS AS CONSISTING OF (A) DELIVERY OF MESSAGES FROM
PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA TO PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE AND CHAIRMAN
MENGISTU HAILE MARIAM, (B) FIRST HAND APPRAISAL OF SITUATION,
AND (C) TAKING COGNIZANCE OF POSITIONS OF SOMALI AND ETHIOPIAN
GOVERNMENTS. MISSION WILL NOW REPORT TO PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA
ACCORDING TO BULLETIN, AND DECISION WILL THEN BE MADE ON NEXT
STEPS IN MEDIATION EFFORT. DELEGATION HEAD, PRESIDENT OF
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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, ANDRIANARAHINJAKA ALSO WARNED THAT
LITTLE RELIANCE SHOULD BE PLACED ON REPORTS BY WIRE
SERVICES CONCERNING SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN CONFLICT FOR INFOR-
MATION CONTAINED THEREIN DID NOT ORIGINATE WITH EITHER
GOVERNMENT (SIC).

2. IN DISCUSSION WITH PRESS AT AIRPORT ANDRIANARAHINJAKA

WAS A BIT MORE FORTHCOMING, STRESSING CORDIALITY OF WELCOME IN SOMALIA, WHOSE PRESIDENT IS SUCH A GOOD FRIEND OF MADAGASCAR, AND IN ETHIOPIA, EVEN THOUGH CONTACTS WITH THAT REGIME HAVE BEEN MINIMAL IN THE PAST. ON ETHIOPIA HE ADDED THAT THERE IS ALWAYS POSSIBILITY OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN COUNTRIES THAT HAVE TAKEN REVOLUTIONARY ROAD. AIRPORT INTERVIEW ALSO GAVE MORE IMPORTANT VERSION OF DELEGATION'S MISSION, "...TO SEEK POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS" COMPATIBLE TO BOTH PARTIES AND TO "NEGOTIATE A RAPPROCHEMENT" BETWEEN THE TWO BELLIGERENTS.

3. COMMENT. MALAGASY INVOLVEMENT IN STICKY SITUATION IN HORN IS A DEPARTURE FROM GENERALLY LOW PROFILE ADOPTED BY MADAGASCAR AT RECENT MULTILATERAL MEETINGS, AND UNDERLYING MOTIVE FOR THIS UNUSUAL INITIATIVE IS NOT APPARENT TO ME AT THIS TIME. POSSIBILITIES ADVANCED BY MY STAFF INCLUDE (A) DESIRE TO SEE WHAT THE SOVIETS ARE UP TO IN THE HORN IN ORDER TO LEARN FROM IT FOR THEIR OWN DEALINGS WITH USSR AND (B) COMPLIANCE WITH SOVIET REQUEST WHO WOULD LIKE THEIR AFRICAN FRIENDS TO HELP THEM OUT IN THEIR PROBLEMS IN THE HORN. LATTER POSSIBILITY GIVEN MORE CREDIBILITY BY FACT THAT MOZAMBIQUE MAY ALSO BE GETTING INVOLVED IN MEDIATION OF OGADEN CONFLICT, ACCORDING TO REUTERS ITEM IN TODAY'S PRESS BULLETIN.BARRETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ANTANA01527
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770305-1121
Format: TEL
From: ANTANANARIVO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770831/aaaaaziq.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 31b5de55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ANTANANARIVO 1484, 77 ADDIS ABABA 5044, 77 ADDIS ABABA 1969
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1509393
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MALAGASY MISSION RETURNS FROM ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA
TAGS: PBOR, ET, SO, MA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/31b5de55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009